

May 9, 2012

ITEM NO. C1

**RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AFTER SCHOOL
MATTERS TO PROVIDE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP AND APPRENTICESHIP YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS FOR CHA YOUTH**

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners ("Board") authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into a contract with After School Matters ("ASM") to provide pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship youth employment programs for a total of 315 CHA youth ages 14-18 for the period of June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 for a total amount not-to-exceed \$330,000.

FUNDING SUMMARY

General Fund

Vendor: After School Matters
Address: 78 W. Washington
Chicago, IL 60602

Contract Type: Professional Services
Contract Amount: \$330,000
Contract Term: June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013

M/W/DBE Participation (Original & Modification):

MBE ____ % WBE ____ % DBE ____ %

Waiver: Pending

Section 3: 4 (#) Hiring ____ (\$) Subcontracting ____ (\$) Other Economic Opportunities

EXPLANATION

Resident Services is seeking approval to enter into a contract with After School Matters (ASM) to fund after school and out-of-school time programs for a total of 315 public housing and HCV youth ages 14-18 during the summer and fall sessions of 2012 and the spring session of 2013. The goals of ASM are aligned with CHA's corporate strategy, including creating healthy and strong communities and helping families maximize their potential. This programming is essential to CHA's youth by not only providing safe year round out-of-school and after school opportunities, but also providing transferrable social, academic and employment skills.

After School Matters Program Model

The ASM program model is designed to provide Chicago teens, ages 14-18, with after school and out-of-school time programs; these programs provide some of the city's most vulnerable youth with a safe environment that promotes career exploration and educational advancement. ASM offers more than 200 year-round programs, which provide transferable skills that youth

will be able to use in both the classroom and as they move into the workplace. ASM utilizes a three-tiered program model with pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship cohorts, each requiring applicants to possess a greater level of skill in the subject area upon entry into the program. ASM has adopted the research-based Youth Program Quality (YPQ) model to promote continuous improvement between ASM management, program instructors and participants. The core of the YPQ model seeks to foster safe and supportive environments that encourage peer interaction, youth engagement and exploration.

Programs are led by experienced, industry professionals who are able to provide participants with transferrable skills in the specific program area and who are experienced in engaging and motivating teens. Programs fall into one (1) of five (5) content areas: gallery, technology, words, science or sports. Through the apprenticeship programs, youth are empowered with career readiness skills such as accountability, self-control, initiative, teamwork, and problem solving. In order to create a continuum of programming that can reach some of Chicago's most underserved teens, ASM partners with city sister agencies (e.g. Department of Family and Support Services [DFSS], Chicago Public Schools [CPS], Chicago Park District, CHA, etc.) and more than 100 community based organizations throughout Chicago neighborhoods.

ASM is responsible for procuring, managing and monitoring more than 200 youth apprenticeship employment programs during both the school year and summer out-of-school time. ASM utilizes a competitive procurement process via a Request for Proposals (RFP) that is released every winter. While CHA assists in the promotion of the RFP by notifying its service providers, the Local Advisory Council (LAC) and other youth organizations, ASM independently scores and selects all of the programs and instructors.

All ASM programs serve cohorts of 15 or 30 youth, and have an instructor ratio of 1:15. Additionally, in 2012, ASM will hire one (1) CHA resident for each program funded by CHA to assist in program implementation and supervision of youth. ASM piloted this concept at two (2) programs at Trumbull Park during the Spring 2012 term and received a great response from instructors, youth participants and the resident employees.

ASM offers three (3) terms throughout the calendar year, providing youth engaged year round with over 180 hours of structured programming. During the summer term, participants are engaged four (4) hours a day, four (4) days a week for six (6) weeks. Youth successfully completing a summer apprenticeship level program earn a \$420 stipend. During the fall and spring ASM terms, participants engage in programming three (3) hours a day, three (3) days per week for ten (10) weeks; and youth successfully completing the program earn a program award of \$100 per term.

Since 2007, Chapin Hall's Center for Children at the University of Chicago has studied ASM's impact on academic achievement within its participants. In particular, they have found that ASM participants who are highly engaged in programming (defined as participating in three [3] continuous ASM afterschool terms and attending a minimum of 27 of the 30 program days), when compared to students who did not participate in ASM, are more likely to:

- have better attendance during the school year and be absent 3.41 less days;
- demonstrate improved academic performance (ASM participants on average failed only 9.6% of core courses compared to 15.8% of non-participants);

- graduate high school (ASM participants have a 2.7 times greater chance of graduating); and
- enroll in college (ASM participants are 18% more likely to enroll in college following high school graduation than non-participating CPS graduates).

Contract History

CHA has contracted directly with ASM, since 2003 through proposals by non-competitive procurement process, to ensure slots for CHA youth in the ASM summer employment programs. While CHA youth are able to apply for any of ASM's 200 plus summer programs and more than 300 fall and spring programs, CHA's funding agreement with ASM has allowed for programs to be created on or near underserved CHA properties and in those communities with high concentrations of HCV and public housing residents. ASM and CHA have collaborated each year throughout the months prior to the start of the summer session in order to determine communities in need of additional programs, as well as identifying the general types (e.g. gallery, technology) of programs in which youth are interested in participating. ASM utilizes CHA's feedback on service gaps and independently identifies appropriate programs to be implemented in these communities.

Programs such as the Altgeld Youth Drama Group, Archi-treasures youth community planning projects at Roosevelt Square and Lathrop, The Art of Drumming in the Washington Park/Woodlawn neighborhood and the Iron Street Farm Wentworth Garden project are examples of programs created by ASM for CHA youth in the summer of 2011 with funding from CHA. All ASM programs have a demonstrated outcome at the end of each term, such as a theater presentation, dance composition, video project, or murals displayed throughout the community. One such program, a 2010 summer mural project at Trumbull Park, produced the murals that are installed on the 12th floor of CHA's headquarters.

CHA has been able to leverage its agreement to generate additional CHA youth participation in ASM programs. In 2010, 608 CHA youth participated in summer programs, while CHA funded 355 slots. In 2011, although CHA funded only 300 slots for summer programs, 692 CHA youth participated during the summer term. Through a new data share agreement with ASM put into place in 2011, CHA has been able to identify a total of 2,688 CHA youth, who participated in ASM programs throughout the calendar year.

The data share agreement with ASM allows CHA to identify youth that participate in any ASM program and to identify communities in need of additional youth opportunities. It was through this new agreement that Resident Services learned 20% of CHA youth in ASM programs participated in more than one session, ultimately benefiting from the opportunity to advance within the ASM framework. As a result of the information provided by the data share agreement, Resident Services was better able to evaluate program participation and to recommend year round ASM programs to provide more opportunities during the school year.

For the summer and fall sessions of 2012 and the spring session of 2013, CHA and ASM will collaborate to develop year-round programming opportunities that will ultimately serve a total of 315 CHA teens. It is anticipated that ASM will create four (4) programs each term (Summer, Fall and Spring). Providing year round opportunities will promote continuity for youth and builds trusting relationships with adults and their peers, while having a positive effect on their academic performance. The addition of a CHA resident being engaged in each of these

programs promotes partnership and cooperation between youth and adults within their communities.

ASM is currently evaluating its science program model and hopes to implement a science program for CHA youth by the spring of 2013 term. ASM will utilize the same meticulous evaluation procedures in selecting program leaders for the identified program sites. CHA's contracted case management providers (e.g. FamilyWorks) will assist in recruiting applicants for these targeted programs. Youth then apply online through the city of Chicago's One Summer Chicago site, and through the existing data share with ASM, CHA youth will be identified as preferred participants.

Conclusion

Based upon the foregoing, it is in the best interest of CHA to authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to enter into a contract with After School Matters ("ASM") to provide pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship youth employment programs for a total of 315 CHA youth ages 14-18 for the period of June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 for a total amount not-to-exceed \$330,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-CHA-38

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority has reviewed the Board Letter dated May 9, 2012, entitled "RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS TO PROVIDE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP AND APPRENTICESHIP YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS FOR CHA YOUTH";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

THAT, the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to enter into a contract with After School Matters ("ASM") to provide pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship youth employment programs for a total of 315 CHA youth ages 14-18 for the period of June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 for a total amount not-to-exceed \$330,000.

